

GENERAL

1. US position on internationalization of Jerusalem--The Department of State has instructed the US delegation to the UN to support, as a basis for General Assembly consideration, the proposal for internationalizing Jerusalem recently drafted by the Palestine Conciliation Commission. The Department further instructs the delegation to consider any amendments or new proposals "on their merits" as well as in "the light of the possibility of reaching general agreement in the GA." If the GA is unable to agree on precise terms for settling the Jerusalem question, the US delegation should, pending further consideration of the issue, support some temporary arrangement providing for UN supervised protection of and access to the Holy Places.
2. Soviet support of Arab unity unlikely--In assessing the possibility of Soviet action in the Near East, US Embassy Moscow expresses the belief that the USSR will not support Arab unity now, primarily because the Kremlin is generally opposed to creating regional groupings not under its control. The Embassy adds, however, that the Kremlin may "welcome or even encourage" unification schemes which it estimates would weaken the influence of the western powers in a given area; the Embassy cites the proposed Syria-Iraq union as an example which might lead to unrest in neighboring countries and to strained relations among western powers. In conclusion, the Embassy suggests that support be given to the broadest feasible Near East regional grouping conforming to the spirit of the UN charter.

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